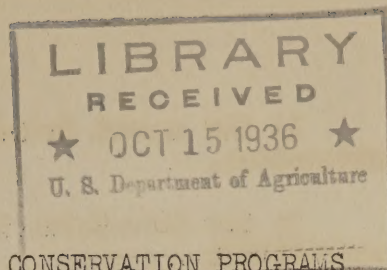


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VOLUNTARY NATURE OF AAA ADJUSTMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Voluntary participation by farmers has been a fundamental principle of the adjustment and agricultural conservation programs which have been developed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration since it was formed in May 1933.

Millions of American farmers have cooperated voluntarily in the adjustment programs. There were approximately three million contract signers under the various adjustment programs in 1934, and approximately three and one-half million signers under the 1935 programs.

More than four million farmers have submitted preliminary work sheets in the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program.

These millions of farmers entered the adjustment and conservation programs of their own accord. No adjustment program was developed without consulting with the leaders of the branch of agriculture affected. No adjustment program was undertaken except upon the approval of the rank and file of farmers concerned.

The program in each county has been carried out by county and community committees of farmers elected by the farmers. The entire local administration of the AAA programs has been in the hands of the local farmers.

All of the programs operated by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration have been purely voluntary, with the exception of programs under the Bankhead Cotton Act, the Kerr-Smith Tobacco Act, and the Potato Act of 1935. The impetus for these measures came from the farmers affected. Referenda on the Bankhead and Kerr-Smith programs were held after they had been in operation for a year and provision was made for a yearly referendum on the potato program. Although Secretary Wallace and Adjustment Administration officials expressed doubt as to the feasibility of some features of the potato program, the Administration was designated by Congress to administer the Act and did so until the Act was repealed.

The referenda on these acts and the six referenda conducted on various AAA programs seem a complete answer to the charge that farmers were "regimented" by the AAA. In each of these referenda farmers voted by substantial majorities for continuing the programs and the Acts.

In the wheat referendum farmers voted 6 1/2 to 1 for continuation.

In the Bankhead Cotton Referendum farmers voted over 8 to 1 for continuation.

In the first Corn-Hog Referendum farmers voted over 2 to 1 for continuation.

In the second Corn-Hog referendum farmers voted over 6 to 1 for continuation.

In the Kerr-Smith tobacco referendum farmers voted 15 to 1 for continuation.

In the 1935 tobacco referendum farmers voted over 21 to 1 for continuation.

In these six referenda there were 4,259,019 votes cast, of which 3,697,560 votes favored continuation of the programs. These polls gave an opportunity to vote to every farmer who produced wheat, cotton, corn-hogs, and tobacco.

Under the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program farmers have charge of the local administration of the program.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is operated on a nonpartisan basis. The articles of association governing the county associations provide that no person who holds, or who becomes a candidate for a county, State, or Federal office, is eligible to serve as a committeeman of the association.

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